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IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (currently amended) A computer program product for controlling a computer to validate program configuration data, said computer program product comprising:

comparing code operable to compare an XML data representation of said program configuration data with data defining valid program configuration data;

wherein, if said XML data representation does match said data defining valid program configuration data, then triggering code is operable to trigger a valid program configuration response;

wherein mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation of said program configuration data;

wherein said mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data;

wherein editing code is operable to edit said DOM data representation of said program configuration data to provide modified program configuration data to be validated;

wherein said comparing code is executable by a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises sending validated program configuration data to a managed computer for use by said managed computer;

wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

2. (previously presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program;

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program initialization data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

XML data directly specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data defining valid program configuration data is one of:

XSD data defining a valid XML data representation; and

DTD data defining a valid XML data representation.

5. (original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said comparing code is part of an XML parser.

6. (previously presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 5, wherein said XML parser further provides validation of XML data other than said XML data representation of said program configuration data.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said comparing code is executable by [a]said managed computer which receives said program configuration data from [a]said program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises configuring a program on said managed computer using said validated program configuration data.

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12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A method of validating program configuration data, said method comprising the step of:

comparing an XML data representation of said program configuration data with data defining valid program configuration data;

wherein, if said XML data representation does match said data defining valid program configuration data, then triggering a valid program configuration response;

wherein mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation of said program configuration data;

wherein said mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data;

wherein editing code is operable to edit said DOM data representation of said program configuration data to provide modified program configuration data to be validated;

wherein said step of comparing is performed by a program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises sending validated program configuration data to a managed computer for use by said managed computer;

wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data representation.

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17. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said program configuration data is one of:

operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an application program;

program initialization data specifying configuration parameters of an application program; and

XML data directly specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

18. (cancelled)

19. (original) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data defining valid program configuration data is one of:

XSD data defining a valid XML data representation; and

DTD data defining a valid XML data representation.

20. (original) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of comparing is performed by an XML parser.

21. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said XML parser further provides validation of XML data other than said XML data representation of said program configuration data.

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

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26. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of comparing is performed by [a] said managed computer which receives said program configuration data from [a]said program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises configuring a program on said managed computer using said validated program configuration data.

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) Apparatus for validating program configuration data, said apparatus comprising:

comparing logic operable to compare an XML data representation of said program configuration data with data defining valid program configuration data;

wherein, if said XML data representation does match said data defining valid program configuration data, then triggering logic is operable to trigger a valid program configuration response;

wherein mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation of said program configuration data;

wherein said mapping code is operable to map between said program configuration data and said XML data representation via a DOM data representation of said program configuration data;

wherein editing code is operable to edit said DOM data representation of said program configuration data to provide modified program configuration data to be validated;

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wherein said comparing logic is part of a program configuration managing
computer and said valid program configuration response comprises sending validated
program configuration data to a managed computer for use by said managed computer;
        wherein said validated program configuration data is sent from said program
configuration managing computer to said managed computer as said XML data
representation.

32. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said
program configuration data is one of:
        operating system registry data specifying configuration parameters of an
application program;
        program initialization data specifying configuration parameters of an application
program; and
        XML data directly specifying configuration parameters of an application program.

33. (cancelled)

34. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said data defining valid
program configuration data is one of:
        XSD data defining a valid XML data representation; and
        DTD data defining a valid XML data representation.

35. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said comparing logic is
part of XML parsing logic.

36. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said XML
parsing logic further provides validation of XML data other than said XML data
representation of said program configuration data.

37. (cancelled)

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38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said comparing logic is part of [a]said managed computer which receives said program configuration data from [a]said program configuration managing computer and said valid program configuration response comprises configuring a program on said managed computer using said validated program configuration data.

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the map includes a mapping between keys in an operating system registry to complex data types within said DOM data representation.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein values in an operating system registry are mapped to simple data types within said DOM data representation.

48. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein an operating system registry is parsed to identify a plurality of keys and types for associating attributes with a plurality of different instances.